



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District**

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Public Affairs

Corps Facts

Environmental Restoration

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Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to undertake restoration projects in aquatic ecosystems, such as rivers, lakes and wetlands. The Corps evaluates projects that benefit the environment through restoring, improving or protecting aquatic habitat for plants, fish and wildlife. A project is accepted for construction after a detailed investigation shows it is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable and provides cost-effective environmental benefits. Each project must be complete within itself, not a part of a larger project. Costs for Section 206 projects are shared between the Federal Government (65 percent) and a non-federal sponsor (35 percent), in accordance with the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. The maximum federal expenditure per project is \$5 million, which includes both planning and construction costs. Costs of lands, easements, project operation and maintenance are non-federal costs.

Environmental Management

The St. Paul District Environmental Management Program is intended to ensure the coordinated development and enhancement of the Upper Mississippi River system, with primary emphasis on habitat restoration and protection projects. Habitat projects include dredging backwater areas and channels, constructing dikes, creating and stabilizing islands and controlling side channel flows and water levels. In this district, the projects are located along the Minnesota River and Mississippi River from Guttenberg, Iowa, to Minneapolis, a distance of 250 river miles.

Habitat Restoration

The Corps of Engineers has the authority, provided by Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended, to plan, design and construct fish and wildlife habitat restoration measures. To be eligible for consideration, restoration measures must involve modification of the structures or operations of a project constructed by the Corps of Engineers, or modification of an off-project site when it is found the Corps project contributed to the degradation of the environment. To qualify under this program, projects must be justified – that is, the benefits resulting from constructing the project must exceed the cost incurred to design and construct the project. The project also must be environmentally acceptable and complete within itself. In addition, each separate project is limited to a total federal cost of not more than \$5 million, including studies, plans and specifications and construction.